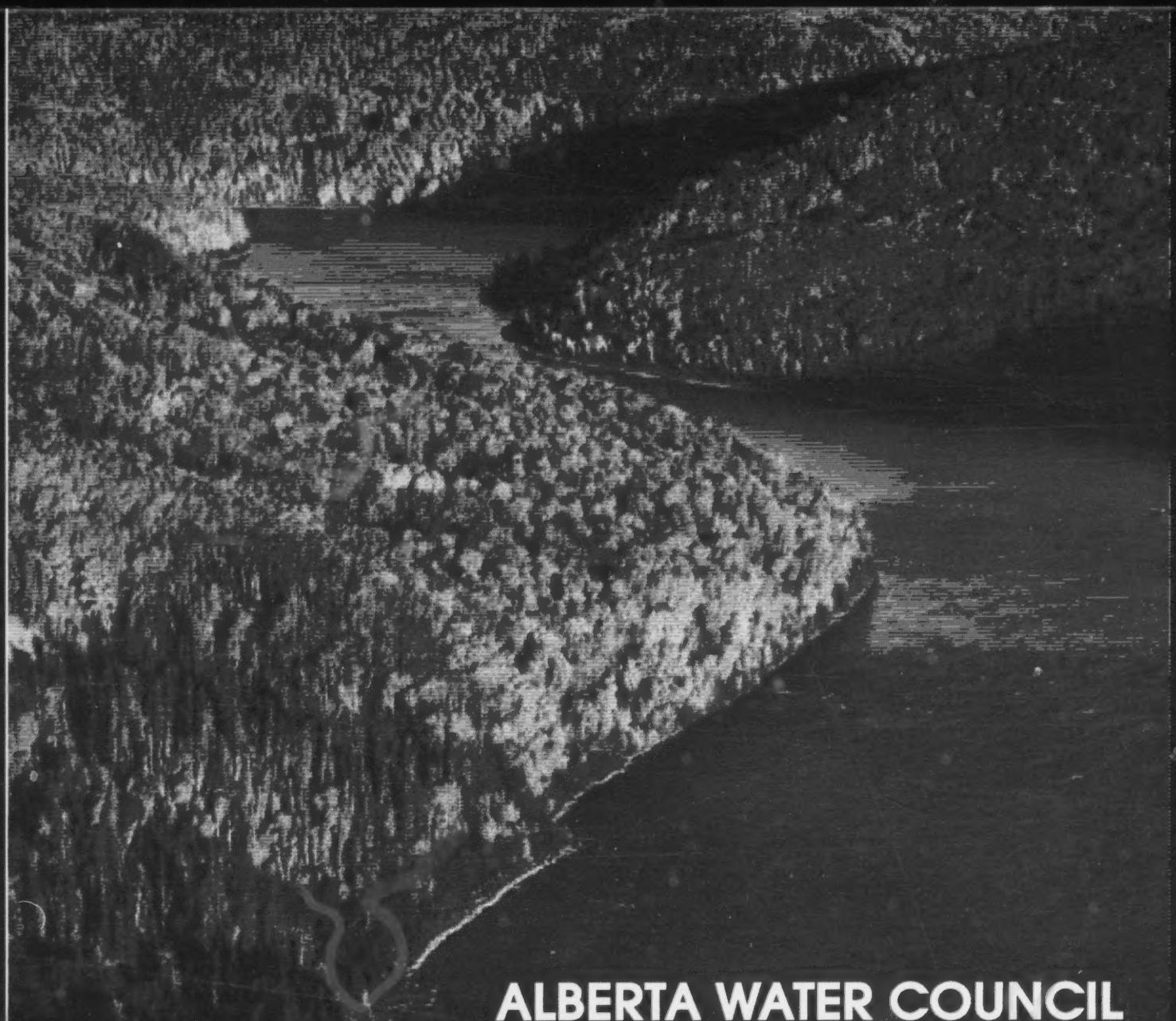

ALBERTA WATER COUNCIL

2007 annual report

About the Alberta Water Council

The Alberta Water Council is a multi-stakeholder partnership with Members from governments, industry, and non-government organizations, all of whom have a vested interest in water. The Council was created in 2004 under Ministerial Order by Alberta's Minister of Environment and serves as a unique example of the concept of shared governance. It is one of three types of partnerships established under the ***Water for Life*** strategy; the others are Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, and Watershed Stewardship Groups.

The Council monitors implementation of the ***Water for Life*** strategy and champions achievement of the strategy's goals. The structure of the ***Water for Life*** strategy is based on a strong relationship between three goals:

- Safe, secure drinking water supply
- Healthy aquatic ecosystems
- Reliable, quality water supplies for a sustainable economy

and three key directions in water management practices that are intended to achieve these outcomes:

- Knowledge and research
- Partnerships
- Water conservation.

The Council also advises the Alberta Government, stakeholders and the public on effective water management practices and solutions to water issues, as well as on priorities for water research. Where there is consensus, the Council may advise on government policy and legislation. However, the Government of Alberta remains accountable for the implementation of the ***Water for Life*** strategy, and continues to administer water and watershed management activities throughout the province.

The Council operates by consensus and is guided by an executive committee. It submits reports and recommendations directly to the Minister of Environment. In November 2007, the Council was formally incorporated as a not-for-profit society under Alberta's ***Societies Act,*** with its own bylaws and governance structure. Beginning in 2008, the Council will receive an annual grant from the Government of Alberta to cover core operating costs and will become responsible for its own financial management.

Vision

All Albertans are water stewards, working together to ensure safe, healthy and abundant water for a high quality of life for future generations.

Mission

The Alberta Water Council is a stakeholder partnership that provides leadership, expertise and advocacy, to engage and empower individuals, organizations, business and governments to achieve the outcomes of the ***Water for Life*** strategy.

About this Report

This is the Council's third annual report. It summarizes activities for the calendar year 2007, to coincide with the Council's new fiscal year-end of December 31.

COVER PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID DODGE, CPAWS

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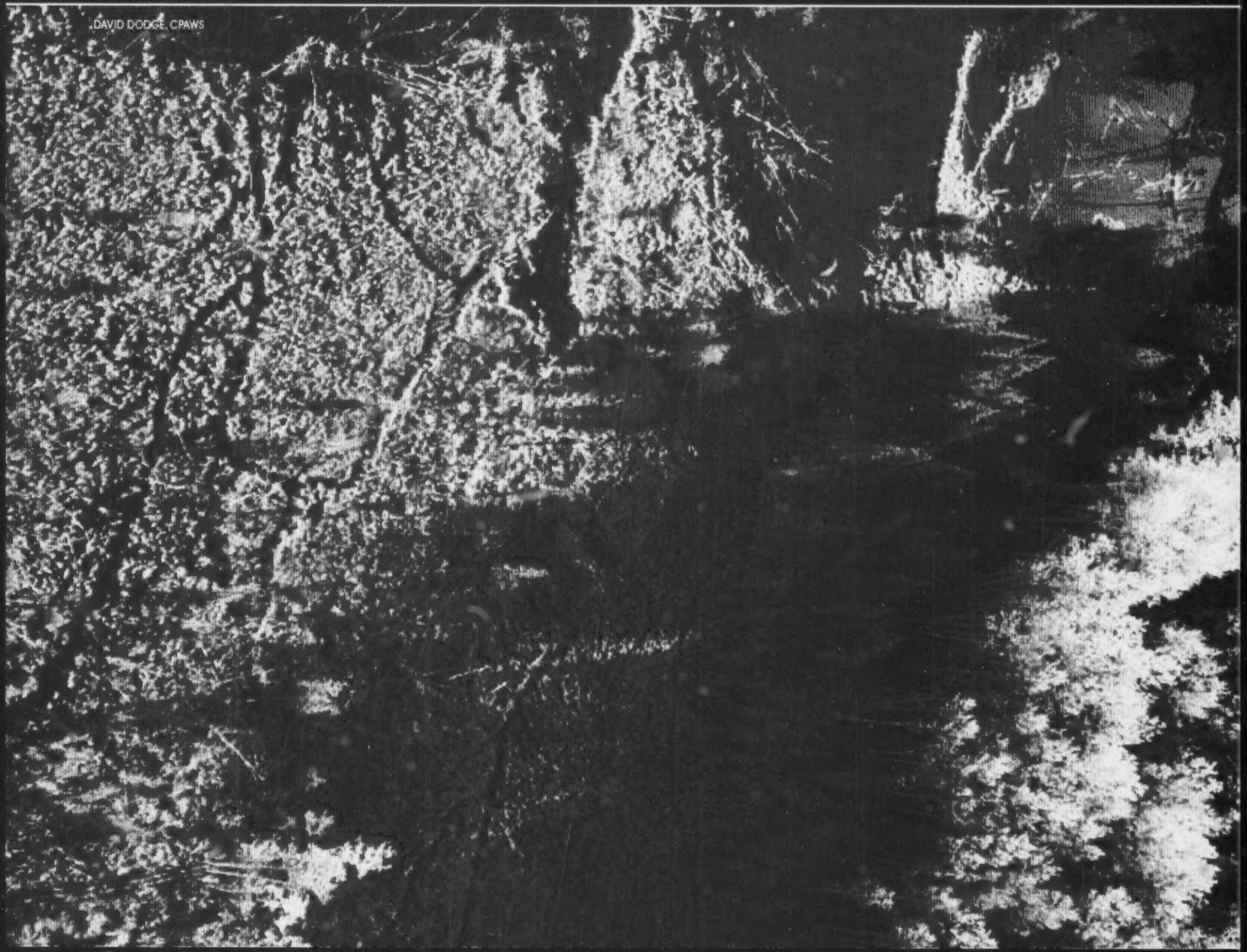

DAVID DODGE, CPAWS

Executive Summary

2007 saw the Alberta Water Council make progress on several fronts. The 2007 Operational Plan focused on five main areas of activity for the year:

- Renewal of the *Water for Life* strategy
- Policy advice on intra-basin movement of water
- Wetland policy
- Sector planning
- Shared governance and watershed management framework.

Renewal of the *Water for Life* strategy was a significant accomplishment in 2007 as Council advised the Government of Alberta on ways to re-energize and re-focus the strategy. Actions to date have built a solid foundation but bold and innovative initiatives are needed in the next phase of implementation. In its *Renewal Report*, the Council emphasized the strong interdependence among the various strategic goals and directions, noting that implementation progress has varied among them. The goal of *Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems*, in particular, should receive renewed attention. Two key themes, each with three recommendations, emerged; specifically:

- **The strategy should focus on safeguarding water sources as a means of enhancing the quality and quantity of water required for future strategic purposes.** To do this, the following were recommended:
  - Address aquatic ecosystem degradation.
  - Integrate water and land management.
  - Create, enhance and use innovative tools and best practices.
- **The complexity and scope of *Water for Life* requires that actions under it be accelerated, particularly in the areas of partnership, leadership and coordination.** Three recommendations were made to accelerate action:
  - Clarify roles, responsibilities and accountabilities.
  - Enhance data collection, analysis and reporting.
  - Expand public awareness programs and build shared commitment.

The Council also noted that it is timely to provide predictable, sustained funding to ensure that *Water for Life's* strategic goals can be met.

In addition to the *Water for Life* renewal, Council began work in three other key areas in 2007:

- **Intra-Basin Water Movement.** Environment Minister Rob Renner asked the Council to determine if the current approach on moving water from one sub-basin for use in another sub-basin is still valid and what, if any, changes should be made to the policy and under what conditions.
- **Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) Sector Planning.** The team produced a detailed document to guide sectors in developing their CEP plans; this guidance document will be used to pilot plans in the irrigation and municipal sectors. With the experience gained from these pilots, the Council expects that other sectors will begin to develop their plans.
- **Shared Governance and Watershed Planning Framework.** This work will result in a description of a shared governance model noting the roles, responsibilities, relationships and accountabilities for the various partnerships identified in the *Water for Life* strategy. It will also clarify the process and the content that should guide the creation of watershed management plans.

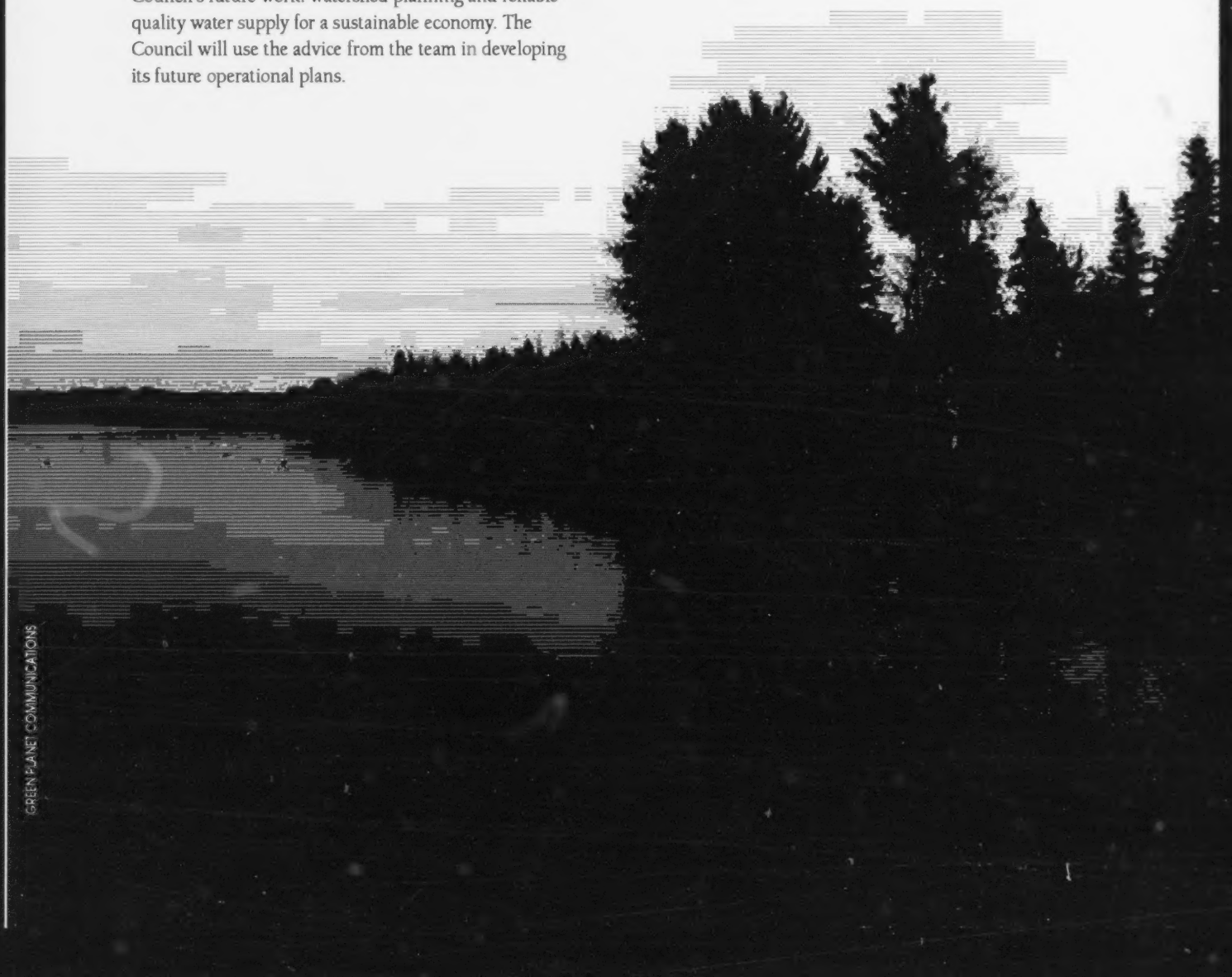
The Wetland Policy and Implementation Plan were well along by the end of 2007. Draft recommendations were being developed and will be presented to the Board in 2008.

Two other Council teams wrapped up their work in 2007.

- The final report of the **Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Definitions** team, approved in January, lays the foundation for future work on which the Council as well as Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils and Watershed Stewardship Groups can build.
- The **Policy Issues and Gaps** team concluded by recommending two focus areas as top priorities for the Council's future work: watershed planning and reliable quality water supply for a sustainable economy. The Council will use the advice from the team in developing its future operational plans.

2007 marked a milestone for the Council, with the transition to an incorporated not-for-profit association. The first meeting of the Board was held in November, when a number of new directors and alternates were welcomed. Staffing of an independent secretariat began with the hiring of Executive Director Gordon Edwards in November, and additional permanent staff will be recruited early in 2008.

For more information on the Alberta Water Council, its publications and activities, please visit the Council's website at www.awchome.ca.



GREEN PLANET COMMUNICATIONS

Message from the President

2007 was an important year for the Council. In response to the Minister's request, we advised the Government of Alberta on renewing ***Water for Life***, with the aim of strengthening an already good strategy and ensuring that it accomplishes its goals. Council members were very focused on this work and feel that we reflected the input received from Albertans during the consultations.

Another milestone was the transition to an independent, arm's length organization. This shift in governance gives the Council wider scope and greater accountability to Albertans, while maintaining our role of advising the Government on, among other things, policies to ensure integrated and comprehensive support for effective watershed management systems. We also plan to do more outreach to engage Albertans in discussions about water as this issue is clearly high on the minds of the people of this province. A solid communications plan was prepared in 2007 to help raise awareness of our work. Aspects of the plan include a new visual identity and website to help position the Council as an independent organization.

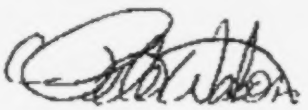
With our new members and new structure, the Council will be doing some work in early 2008 to refresh and reinforce the importance of the responsibilities, challenges and obligations of working in a collaborative process. The consensus decision-making model has worked well for the Council and we feel we can make our process even stronger as the foundation for work to come.

As part of the transition, Council recruited and hired executive director Gordon Edwards and we look forward to working with him. The Council is very grateful to Terry Sly and his team for their excellent work in supporting us through the early years.

One of Council's major activities has been an annual review of implementation progress of the ***Water for Life*** strategy. We completed the second review in 2006 and published it early in 2007. However, given the renewal of the strategy and the time required for our recommendations to be considered, we have decided to do the next review in 2009.

We appreciate the dedicated work of all those who have participated on project teams, working groups and committees this year. We also thank those who left the Council in 2007 for their support and commitment. The executive committee saw changes this year as well; for their leadership and guidance, we thank Bill Berzins, David Hill, and Lisa King, all of whom served on the executive from 2004 to mid-2007.

The coming year will again be full of challenges and opportunities and we look forward to meeting them in a productive, effective and timely manner.



Peter Watson

Council Activities and Progress in 2007

The Council continued to implement its 2006-2009 Business Plan this year. In support of a systems approach to managing water in Alberta, the Business Plan contains two goals and eight strategies to achieve these goals, as noted in the table below.

Business and Operational Plan Component		Area of Council Activity in 2007
Goal	**Strategy**	
Goal 1: **Alberta has an effective, adaptive water management system to achieve the three *Water for Life* goals**	**1.1 Oversight** Guide, direct and assess the effectiveness of implementation of the *Water for Life* strategy.	– Reporting – Water Strategy Renewal
	1.2 Policy Advice Ensure comprehensive and integrated policies are in place to support effective water management systems.	– Intra-Basin Water Movement – Policy Issues and Gaps – Wetland Policy
	1.3 Advocacy Be a catalyst for the improvement of the water management system.	– Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning
	1.4 Knowledge and Research Identify priority water knowledge and research needs in Alberta and ensure they are met.*	– Water Management Knowledge Broker Function
	1.5 Resource Information Identify and champion the resolution of high priority system-wide water resource information requirements (including but not limited to: groundwater, wetlands, in-stream flow needs).	– Water Resource Information
Goal 2: **Albertans are empowered and engaged in creating shared solutions to the challenges of managing our water and watersheds**	**2.1 Support WPACs and WSGs** Support and enhance effectiveness of Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils and Watershed Stewardship Groups.	– Shared Governance and Watershed Planning Framework
	2.2 Influence Albertans Influence Albertans to be personally involved in managing water resources.	– Communications
	2.3 Influence Sectors Influence and motivate sectors to improve their water management practices.	– Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning

* The Council established the Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team in 2006. However, in 2007, due to the amount of work underway by other agencies, the successful completion of collaboration on the *Alberta Water Research Strategy* in 2006, and concerns about overall Council capacity, it was decided to suspend the work on Strategy 1.4, Knowledge and Research and await the outcome of related initiatives.

The Council also prepares an annual operational plan to guide its work. The operational plan is drawn from the Business Plan and is updated every year. To ensure adequate capacity to complete its work effectively, the Council's 2007 Operational Plan identified five priority areas; however, as the table shows, all strategy components received attention. The five priority areas were:

- Renewal of the ***Water for Life*** strategy (Strategy 1.1)
- Policy advice on intra-basin movement of water (Strategy 1.2)
- Wetland policy (Strategy 1.2)
- Sector planning (Strategies 1.3 and 2.3)
- Shared governance and watershed management framework (Strategy 2.1)

The areas of Council activity for 2007 are described in more detail on the following pages under the work of the appropriate committee, working group or project team.

Committees, Working Groups and Project Teams

Committees, working groups and project teams are where much of Council's substantive work is done. Like the Council, these multi-stakeholder bodies make decisions by consensus.

Committees are formed to deal with matters of an administrative nature, such as communications and business planning. Generally, committees carry on their work from year to year.

Working groups are formed when the Council decides that more detailed work is needed in an area. The main purpose of a working group is to scope the issue and recommend how it could be addressed. This typically involves preparing terms of reference for a project team.

Project teams are established to investigate particular water issues thoroughly and come back to Council with a report and recommendations. Terms of reference for each team are available on the Council's website.

This section briefly describes the accomplishments of each committee, working group and project team, and explains how their work fits within the Council's Business Plan by noting the specific strategy the work supports.[1]

Committees

Business Planning Committee

In 2005, the Council engaged in several strategic planning sessions to develop its vision, mission, goals and strategic priorities. When those sessions were completed, the Business Planning Committee was formed to take this material and draft Council's first three-year business plan. The 2006-2009 Business Plan was approved in March 2006 and has guided the subsequent development of annual operating plans. In drafting each operational plan, the Committee reviews the status of all actions to determine what work has been completed, what new work is anticipated, and what will be continuing or carried over. The Committee also assesses the capacity of the Council to undertake the proposed work in an efficient and effective manner, and ensures the work proposed in each operational plan aligns with the goals and strategies in the Business Plan. The Business Planning Committee's work provides the foundation for Council activities and ensures that the Council remains focused and on track in fulfilling its mandate.

The 2007 Operational Plan was approved in March. The direction provided in that plan is reflected in the activities and progress noted in this annual report. The Committee began work in late 2007 on performance measures and an Operational Plan for 2008.

Communications Committee

In March 2007, Council approved a communication action and implementation plan for the communication strategy. The plan was designed to support the Council's overall activities, including the transition to an independent organization. The communications work relates to ***Strategy 2.2, Influence Albertans***, which is "Influence Albertans to be personally involved in managing water resources." It supports Council's goal of empowering and engaging Albertans in creating shared solutions to the challenges of managing our water and watersheds. Communications are critical in enhancing public awareness and understanding of the Council, raising awareness of progress being made on the outcomes of ***Water for Life***, and ensuring that Council activities are being reported in a timely manner.

Much of the Committee's effort this year focused on developing a new visual identity to help position the Council as an independent organization and make it recognizable as such. The visual identity will appear on all communication materials, including a new website. The new website – www.awchome.ca – was activated following the inaugural meeting of the Council as a not-for-profit organization.

1 Because of the nature of its tasks, the Business Planning Committee's work is not reflected in a specific goal or strategy in the Business Plan.

In addition to its foundational activities under the communications plan, the Council issued several news releases in 2007, highlighting its reports and announcing new areas of work. The Communications Committee will continue to oversee implementation and updating of the communications plan as required.

Working Group

Water Resource Information Working Group

The 2006-2009 Business Plan identifies four challenges to the advancement of water management in Alberta, one of which is information gaps in water research and monitoring. More information on water resources is needed to achieve the three goals in the ***Water for Life*** strategy. Specifically, Council's ***Strategy 1.5, Resource Information***, is to identify and champion the resolution of high-priority, system-wide water resource information requirements, particularly in the areas of groundwater, wetlands and in-stream flow needs.

The Water Resource Information Working Group was established in October 2006 with the intent of delivering a product by May 2007. Its overall goal was to fulfill strategic priority 1.5 as described above. The group undertook a baseline assessment by surveying all Water Council members early in 2007. The assessment helped to highlight the gaps in information that is available and the accessibility of that information. Responses identified two primary areas of concern:

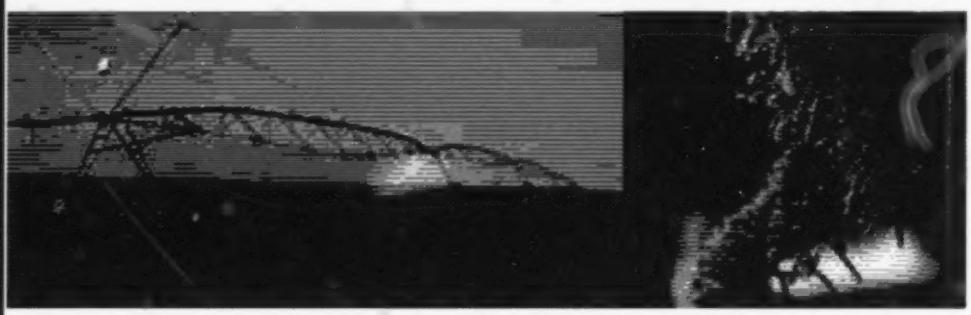
- Lack of coordination and planning for collecting, locating and ensuring access to shared water resources information, and
- Lack of relevant groundwater resource data and information.

However, the group felt the results did not represent a sufficiently wide spectrum nor were most of the responses detailed enough to provide a thorough understanding of the issues. Given the other work now underway, Council asked this group to liaise with the Alberta Water Research Institute and those working on the water portal (WaterSmart), and to present a revised proposal in 2008 for completing a baseline assessment of water resource information in the province.

Project Teams

Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Plan Project Team

This team was launched in March as a result of the work of the Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) Definitions Project Team, which released its report in January 2007. The strategic intent of the CEP Sector Plan Project Team is to ensure that water conservation, efficiency and productivity plans are developed consistently across sectors and watersheds in Alberta, in a way that reflects a collaborative and integrated approach to managing water and watersheds at all levels. This work



supports ***Strategy 1.3, Advocacy***, which is "Be a catalyst for the improvement of the water management system" and ***Strategy 2.3, Influence Sectors***, which is "Influence and motivate sectors to improve their water management practices." It is a very important component of the Council's work and will contribute to achieving all three goals of the ***Water for Life*** strategy.

The team has compiled a detailed document to guide sectors in developing their CEP plans. The irrigation and municipal sectors will be part of a pilot project to test the guidance document in preparing their own plans. The project team will monitor the progress and success of these pilots and report back to Council.

The intent is that eventually each sector will do a plan to identify and implement activities that improve water conservation, efficiency and productivity in Alberta. In addition to municipalities and irrigators, other priority sectors include oil and gas, power generation, mining, forestry, chemical and petrochemical, and agriculture.

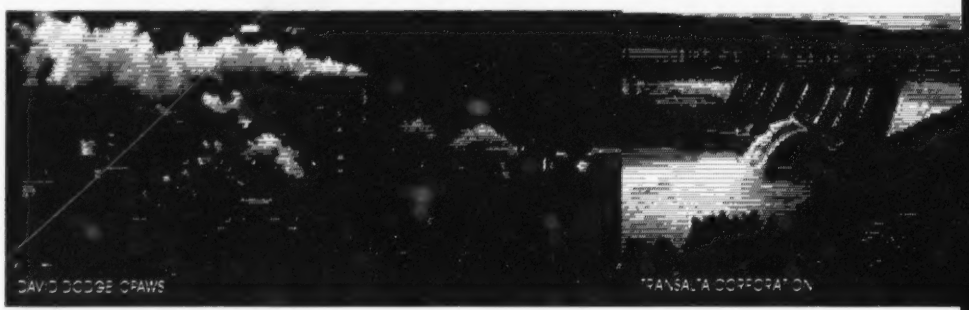
The team has now begun to outline and evaluate both regulatory and non-regulatory tools to address issues of sector participation and accountability, noting that sectors have different motivations to complete plans and different opportunities to make progress in CEP. This team was expected to provide its first deliverable – the guidance document – by September 2007, which it did. Additional products are expected in 2008.

Intra-Basin Water Movement Project Team

In January, the Council accepted a request from Environment Minister Rob Renner regarding intra-basin movement of water. The Minister asked Council to determine if the current approach on moving water from one sub-basin for use in another sub-basin is still valid and what, if any, changes should be made to the policy and under what conditions.

This work supports the Council's ***Strategy 1.2, Policy Advice***, which is "Ensure comprehensive and integrated policies are in place to support effective water management systems"; it relates to all three goals of the ***Water for Life*** strategy.

The project team was established in June and members met often to discuss the complex aspects of this task. The team engaged known concerned stakeholders to confirm the range of concerns with the current approach, and also looked at other jurisdictions to identify opportunities that could apply to Alberta. A number of challenges emerged as the team worked to develop appropriate recommendations. Several of the issues identified are clearly interconnected, and others affect much more than just intra-basin water movement. The two fundamental issues that posed the greatest difficulty related to a) the scale of the sub-basins between which water movement might be considered, and b) the process to determine if water is available for allocation. The team was due to submit its final report and recommendations to Council in 2007, but requested and



received further direction from the Council in November. In completing its task, the team will seek ways to bring more transparency to the decision-making process, make suggestions about what should be included in a decision tree, and may also describe some of the gaps, issues and challenges it has identified. It will present a final report to the Board in the first half of 2008.

Policy Issues and Gaps Project Team

The 2006-2009 Business Plan identifies four challenges to the advancement of water management in Alberta, one of which is aligning policy, legislation, and resources to implement the ***Water for Life*** strategy. To address this challenge, Council established the Policy Issues and Gaps Project Team in May 2006 to develop a process for identifying policy and legislative issues and gaps in Alberta's water management system, and to recommend approaches to address priority issues and gaps initially identified through the process.

This work relates to ***Strategy 1.2, Policy Advice***, which is "Ensure comprehensive and integrated policies are in place to support effective water management systems." It supports the Council goal of ensuring that Alberta has an effective, adaptive water management system to achieve the three ***Water for Life*** goals, and has provided important background for the Council's internal use in future strategic planning activities.

The team compiled a list of about 120 potential policy issue areas and used a prioritization assessment process to narrow the list to a manageable number. This process enabled the team to identify those issues that would have the largest impact in a timely fashion and would also have the highest probability of success. With input from subject matter experts, the team undertook further assessment and recommended two focus areas as top priorities:

- Watershed planning, and
- Reliable quality water supply for a sustainable economy.

Two other areas were also viewed as priorities that must be addressed when updating and improving Alberta's current water management systems:

- Pollution minimization and source water protection, and
- Legal framework for water conservation and management to support aquatic ecosystem protection.

The process identified specific elements within each of these focus areas, which, if addressed, could have significant positive impacts on Alberta's water management system.

The 2007 Operational Plan indicated the team would submit a final report in June 2007. Council approved the team's final report in November.

Reporting Project Team

To ensure efficiency in the reporting process, the Reporting Project Team has overseen production of two key documents: the Council's annual report and the review report on progress in implementing the ***Water for Life*** strategy. The review report is particularly important in providing an independent assessment of the Government of Alberta's progress in achieving the strategy's three outcomes and three directions. The review report supports ***Strategy 1.1, Oversight*** in the Council's business plan, which is "Guide, direct and assess the effectiveness of implementation of the ***Water for Life*** strategy." The Council has completed two review reports[2] and would normally have begun work on the third report this year. However, with the renewal of the ***Water for Life*** strategy, it was decided to defer the next review to 2009. This will ensure a reasonable amount of time for the next phase of strategy implementation to get underway and for government to respond to the Council's renewal recommendations.

The annual report informs stakeholders and the public of the Council's work. Following the transition to an independent organization, the annual reporting period now aligns with the Council's fiscal year (January to December).

2 See the list of additional resources at the end of this report.

Shared Governance and Watershed Planning Framework Project Team

This team was given the task of providing clarity and understanding about what shared governance means and how it can be effectively implemented to deliver the outcomes of the ***Water for Life*** strategy. A key product will be a description of a shared governance model noting the roles, responsibilities, relationships and accountabilities for the various partnerships identified in the ***Water for Life*** strategy.

The second main task for the team is to clarify the process and the content that should guide the creation of watershed management plans. This will result in a manual that WPACs and others can use in developing watershed management plans.

This work relates to ***Strategy 2.1, Support WPACs*** and WSGs, which is "Support and enhance effectiveness of Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils and Watershed Stewardship Groups." Because the WPACs and WSGs are instrumental to the effectiveness of the ***Water for Life*** strategy, this is a particularly important aspect of the Council's work.

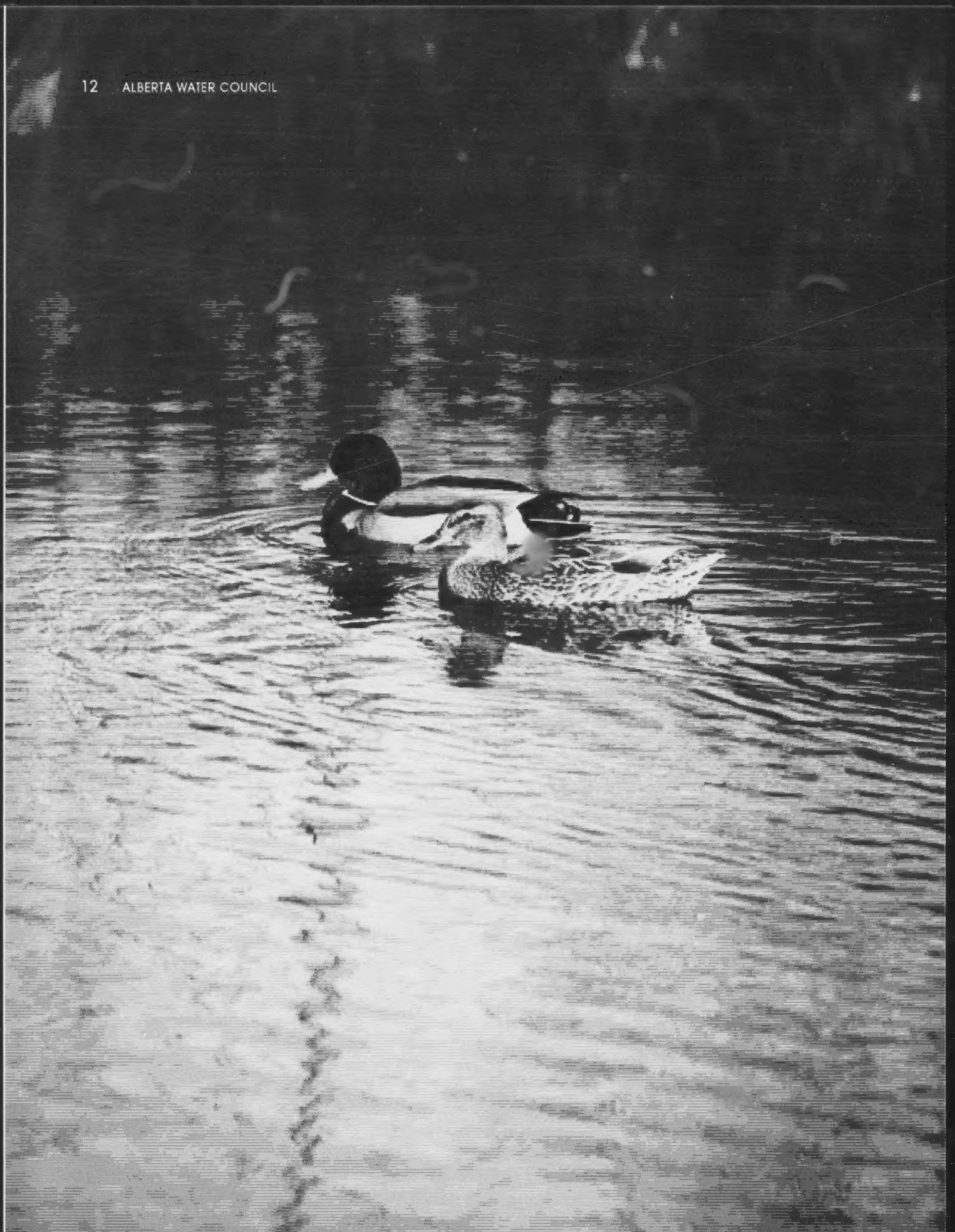
The team assembled information from major stakeholders and prepared a workshop discussion guide to engage a broader audience. This engagement occurred in November when more than 100 stakeholders attended four regional workshops. The team will compile a report on what it heard at the workshops and develop the two documents described above. The team was expected to present its work to the Board in March 2008, and will likely report in June 2008.

Water Management Knowledge Broker Function Project Team

This team was formed in 2006 in support of ***Strategy 1.4, Knowledge and Research***, which is "Identify priority water knowledge and research needs in Alberta and ensure they are met." The team reported back on a conceptual map of the knowledge system, identifying potential roles for a knowledge broker, potential products from such a brokerage function, the role for an online information portal, and options for moving forward. Around the time the team was expanding discussions with others involved in this area, a number of agencies separately pursued brokerage functions. It was apparent that the knowledge system was evolving through a variety of initiatives, projects, processes and reports, and early in 2007 Council decided to suspend its work in this area until the outcomes from other activities are clearer.

Water Strategy Renewal Project Team

Early in 2007, the Council accepted Environment Minister Renner's request to lead the renewal of the ***Water for Life*** strategy. The intent was to build on the experience gained to date and to highlight strategic areas of focus for the next phase of the strategy's implementation.



This work supports ***Strategy 1.1, Oversight***, and is important in ensuring that implementation of ***Water for Life*** is energized and advanced.

Council approved terms of reference for the project team in March 2007 and established a steering committee to provide guidance to the team between Council meetings. The Council's ***2006 Review Report*** on implementation progress was used as the foundation for the renewal work. Using a workbook and online questionnaire developed by the project team, Council members solicited input from their sectors and interested Albertans. In total, 245 individuals, organizations and agencies provided their comments.

Based on input from the consultations and the 13 recommendations in the Council's ***2006 Review Report***, the team concluded that the three goals and three key directions of the ***Water for Life*** strategy remain valid. However, because of their close interconnections, it is imperative that progress be made on all goals. In particular, the goal of ***Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems*** should receive renewed attention.

The Council recommended refocusing and resourcing the strategy around two key themes:

1. The strategy should focus on safeguarding water sources as a means of enhancing the quality and quantity of water required for future strategic purposes. Specifically:
   - Address aquatic ecosystem degradation.
   - Integrate water and land management.
   - Focus on the creation, enhancement and use of innovative water management tools and practices.
2. The complexity and scope of ***Water for Life*** now requires that actions under it be accelerated. Specifically:
   - Clarify the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities at both partnership and government levels.
   - Enhance data collection, analysis and reporting.
   - Expand public awareness programs and build shared commitment.

The Council's report also observed a strong and consistent feedback from stakeholders that adequate, reliable resourcing must be in place to ensure the ***Water for Life*** strategy achieves its stated goals. It was noted that it is now timely to provide predictable, sustained funding for partnerships and major initiatives.

The report was transmitted to the Minister in early 2008 and is available on the Council's website.

Wetland Policy Project Team

The Government of Alberta asked the Council to develop a wetland policy and implementation plan for the province and this has been a high priority. This work supports Strategy 1.2, Policy Advice, and relates directly or indirectly to all three goals in the ***Water for Life*** strategy.

The Wetland Policy Project Team was formed in 2005. This year, the team continued its work to develop a draft policy and implementation plan. In preparation for broader consultations in fall 2007, project team members developed a workbook to be used as the main tool for gathering input. It was mailed to a number of key stakeholders and also made available online. The team then held seven workshops across Alberta in October, with a very good response. In total, the team received 600 workbook submissions from individuals, organizations and agencies during its consultations.

Based on this input, team members began drafting recommendations for a wetland policy and implementation plan. The Council's Operational Plan targeted completion of this work for December 2007. Draft recommendations will be presented for discussion at a Board workshop early in 2008, and the team expects to bring its final report to the Board later in the year. Following the Board's review and approval of the recommendations for a wetland policy and implementation plan, the report will be transmitted to the Environment Minister.

The Transition to an Independent Organization

Following formal internal discussions and information exchange with the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA), the Council decided in 2006 to proceed with the transition to an independent organization, based generally on the CASA model. A multi-stakeholder Transition Committee was formed to explore options and bring forward recommendations. The Committee drafted bylaws and made a number of recommendations regarding structure, governance and membership. In late 2006, Council approved the Committee's recommendations and agreed to incorporate as a not-for-profit society — the Alberta Water Council Association[3] — under the Alberta *Societies Act*. The incorporation process culminated on November 30, 2007, when the Council held its inaugural meeting to launch the new organization as a separate legal entity.

In 2004, when the Council was established by Ministerial Order, members were the 25 individuals appointed by the Minister of Environment. A major difference with the new organization is that Members of the Alberta Water Council Association are now the organizations, departments or other entities that reflect the desired multi-stakeholder nature of the Council. The original four broad categories of membership were retained, which means that Members are drawn from Industry, Non-Government Organizations, Government, and Government of Alberta and Provincial Authorities, as reflected in the list on page 18. At the time of incorporation, Council expected to have 29 Members, including two additional seats for environmental non-government organizations and two more for First Nations. Not all 29 positions were filled at the end of 2007, but Council expects them to be in place by the middle of 2008.

Each Member appoints its own representative(s) to the Board of Directors. Members may appoint both a director and an alternate if they wish and these individuals sit on the Board at the pleasure of the Member. The Council is developing process guidelines for how it will do its work to ensure that the collaborative, consensus-based approach works to its full potential. Board meetings are held quarterly.

The transition also involved the establishment of an independent Secretariat. Following an extensive recruitment process, Gordon Edwards was hired as the first permanent executive director in November. With this major step, the independent, Edmonton-based secretariat is expected to be fully operational in the first half of 2008. To maintain continuity, some project managers with Alberta Environment will remain with their project teams, at least in the short term, through secondments or other arrangements.

The formation and role of the Alberta Water Council provides a unique example of shared governance. It demonstrates a willingness on the part of the Government of Alberta to seek and respect stakeholder input as the implementation of the ***Water for Life*** strategy evolves. This input has the potential to greatly influence watershed planning and water management practices in Alberta.

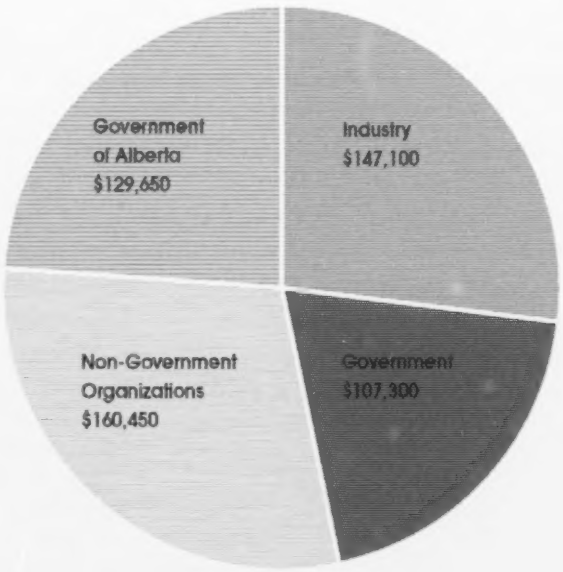
3 Generally, the term "Council" is used to mean the Alberta Water Council Association, which has a Board of Directors, referred to as "the Board."

Funding and Financial Management

Since its formation in 2004, the Council's core activities have been funded through Alberta Environment, and all financial management responsibilities for its operations rested with that department. For this reason, no detailed financial records are part of this annual report, which is consistent with Council's two previous annual reports.

With the Council's incorporation as a not-for-profit society, it will now receive an annual grant from the Government of Alberta, starting in 2008. These funds will cover core operating costs, including support for an independent Secretariat. The Board will approve an annual operating budget and be responsible for budget oversight. Financial records for the 2008 fiscal year will be audited and included in next year's annual report.

Significant in-kind support of more than $544,000 has also been extremely valuable in helping Council teams do their work. Industry, government and non-government organizations have all provided such support, largely through the participation of their staff. A number of organizations have also hosted meetings and other events. The Council has tried to assign a dollar value to this support by examining time and travel costs and other contributions, but can confidently say that the true value of these contributions is both under-recorded and underestimated. The pie chart shows these in-kind contributions, which are gratefully acknowledged.



Members of the Council

Members gave generously of their time and expertise to advance the Council's work in 2007.

Broad Category	Representative	Alternate
Industry		
Chemical and Petrochemical	Al Kennedy	John Skowronski
Forestry	Keith Murray	
Irrigation	Jim Webber	Jim Csabay
Livestock	Larry Nolan	Doug Sawyer
Mining	Judy Smith	Don Thompson
Oil and Gas	Kevin Stashin	J. David Rushford
Power Generation	Mike Kelly*	Jim Hackett
Non-Government Organization		
Environmental	Danielle Droitsch*	Cheryl Bradley
Environmental	Carolyn Campbell	Bob Cameron
Environmental	Jason Unger	Lindsay Telfer
Fishery Habitat Conservation	Ron Pearson	Peter Aku
Lake Environment Conservation	Jay White	Danielle Cobbaert
Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils	Bill Berzins	Richard Bennett
Wetland Conservation	Dave Kay	Jonathan Thompson
Government of Alberta and Provincial Authorities		
Alberta Agriculture and Food	John Donner	Jamie Wuite
Alberta Economic Development Authority	Kim Sturgess	Bill McAlpine
Alberta Energy	Joe Miller	Sharla Rauschning
Alberta Environment	Peter Watson*	Beverly Yee
Alberta Health and Wellness	Alex MacKenzie	Debra Mooney
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development	Brad Pickering	Joyce Ingram
Alberta Water Research Institute	David Hill**	
Other Government		
Federal	Tim Goos	Susanne Forbrich
Large Urban	Rob Pritchard	Barry Anderson
Métis Settlements	Allan Wells	Darlene Carifelle
Rural	Dwight Oliver	Bob Barss
Small Urban	Richard Quail*	Rachel Bocock
Ex-officio	Gordon Edwards*	

** Executive member as of December 2007.*

*** David Hill represented the irrigation sector on the Council until September when he resigned to accept a position with the Alberta Water Research Institute (AWRI). He was named as the AWRI's director in November.*

The Council gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who stepped down in 2007:

Directors:
Nicholas Bayliss
Gerald Cunningham
Brian Hammond
Lisa King
Al Maurer
Linda Van Gastel
Jim Vollmershausen

Alternates:
Doug Cressman
Jack DeBoer
Don Harrison
John Hermans
Gloria Keays
Tim LeClair
Frank Vagi
Les Wetter

Secretariat

The following individuals, all employees of the Government of Alberta, generously and capably provided secretariat and administrative support to the Council and its teams in 2007.

Giselle Beaudry
Sean Douglas
Cam Lane
Karen McCallion
Michelle Olsen
Andy Ridge
Petra Rowell
Jaclyn Schmidt
Terry Sly
Tim Toth
Lorie Wagner
Neil Wandler

Gord Edwards took up his duties as Executive Director of the Secretariat in November.

Members of Teams, Working Groups and Committees

The following individuals have contributed their time and expertise on Council working groups, project teams and committees. They and the organizations with which they are affiliated are acknowledged for their commitment and support.

Wendy Aupers
Nadine Barber
Mark Bennett
Ron Bennett
Bill Berzins
Meghan Beveridge
Rachel Bocock
Mike G. Boyd
Diana Boylen
Mark Brostrom
Kent Bullock
Brian Calliou
Bob Cameron
Claude Chamberland
Rowland Davies
Bob Demulder
John Donner
Danielle Droitsch
Livio Fent
Paul Fesko
Sal Figliuzzi
Jillian Flett
Susanne Forbrich
Lisa Maria Fox
Les Gammie
Gerry Haekel
Denise Hammel
Don Harrison
David Hill
Scott Hillier
Roger Hohm
Joyce Ingram
Lori Jeffrey-Heaney
Lee Jenkins
Mike Kelly
Al Kennedy
Dave Kiely
Lisa King
Phyllis Kobasiuk
Martha Kostuch
Arlene Kwasniak
Claudette Lacombe
Cam Lane
Tim LeClair
David Lloyd
Melissa Logan
Maureen Lynch
Bunny Mah
Scott Millar
Joe Miller
Blake Mills
Dan Moore
Audrey Murray
Keith Murray
George Murphy
Ted Nason
Jacqueline Nelson
Lori Neufeld
Tom Olson
Grant Pearsell
Ron Pearson
Richard Phillips
Shirley Pickering
Jaco Poot
Kirk Popik
Richard Quail
Margaret Reine
Ron Renwick
Kate Rich
Ian Rudland
J. David Rushford
Tracy Scott
Carrie Selin
Judy Smith
Nancy Stalker
Kevin Stashin
Kevin Stephenson
Judy Stewart
Kim Sturgess
Bill Symonds
John Taggart
Lindsay Telfer
Don Thompson
Jonathan Thompson
Jason Unger
Linda Van Gastel
Peter Watson
Jim Webber
Allan Wells
Les Wetter
Jay White
Herb Wiebe
Edna Willier
Jamie Wuite
Brian Yee

DAVID DODGE, CPAWS

Organizations

The following organizations have supported the Alberta Water Council through their generous in-kind contributions. These commitments have been instrumental in helping the Council undertake its work and are deeply appreciated.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
Alberta Association of Municipal Districts & Counties
Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association
Alberta Chamber of Resources
Alberta Conservation Association
Alberta Economic Development Authority
Alberta Energy
Alberta Environment
Alberta Forest Products Association
Alberta Health and Wellness
Alberta Innovation and Science
Alberta Irrigation Projects Association
Alberta Lake Management Society
Alberta Municipal Affairs
Alberta Science and Research Authority
Alberta Stewardship Network
Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
Alberta Water Research Institute
Alberta Wilderness Association
ATCO Power Ltd.
Athabasca-Chipewyan First Nation
Bow River Basin Council
Bow Riverkeeper
Canadian Federation of University Women, Edmonton
Canadian Petroleum Products Institute
City of Brooks
City of Calgary
City of Edmonton
Clean Air Strategic Alliance
ConocoPhillips
Devon Canada
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Encana Corporation
Environment Canada
Environmental Law Centre
EPCOR
First Nations (Alberta) Technical Services Advisory Group
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Fossil Water Corporation
Friends of the Oldman River
Highwood Water Management Plan Public Advisory Committee
Imperial Oil
Intensive Livestock Working Group
Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council
Métis Settlements General Council
North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance
NOVA Chemicals Corporation
Petro-Canada
Red Deer River Watershed Alliance
Safe Drinking Water Foundation, Alberta Chapter
Shell Canada Ltd.
Sierra Club of Canada, Prairie Chapter
Southern Alberta Group for the Environment
South Peace Environmental Association
St. Mary River Irrigation District
Syncrude Canada Ltd.
The Banff Centre
Town of Okotoks
TransAlta Corporation
Trout Unlimited Canada, Alberta Chapter
University of Calgary, Faculty of Law
Western Irrigation District

Other Resources

The Alberta Water Council has produced a number of reports that can be downloaded from the Council's website. Copies are also available on request to the Secretariat. Other agencies and organizations have published materials that have been useful to the Council and may be of interest to readers. Some of these are noted below.

Alberta Water Council Documents

The following documents are available on the Alberta Water Council website at www.awchome.ca, under "Publications."

- *Water for Life, Recommendations for Renewal* (January 2008)
- *Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity: Principles, Definitions, Performance Measures and Environmental Indicators* (January 2007)
- *Review of Implementation Progress of Water for Life, 2005 – 2006* (April 2007)
- *Review of Implementation Progress of Water for Life, 2004/2005* (October 2005)
- *Annual Report 2005 – 2006* (April 2007)
- *Annual Report 2004 – 2005* (October 2005)
- *2006 – 2009 Business Plan* (April 2006)
- *Water Research Strategy* (January 2006), published by the Alberta Science and Research Authority

Water for Life Strategy and Related Documents

A number of documents related to the *Water for Life* strategy are available online at www.waterforlife.gov.ab.ca/index.html. This includes the *Report of the Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy to the Ministry of Environment, Province of Alberta*, at www.waterforlife.gov.ab.ca/docs/Rosenberg_Report.pdf.

Watershed Planning and Advisory Council Websites

- Bow River Basin Council, www.brbc.ab.ca/
- North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance, www.nswa.ab.ca/
- Oldman Watershed Council, www.oldmanbasin.org/
- Red Deer River Watershed Alliance, www.rdrwa.ca/

Other Alberta Resources and Websites

- Alberta Stewardship Network, www.ab.stewardshipcanada.ca/
- Alberta Water Research Institute, www.waterinstitute.ca

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